

BBC File

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12 December 1 952

Mr. Richard D. Marriott  
Head, BBC Monitoring Service  
Caversham Park  
Reading, England

Dear Richard:

Just after you left Washington I received a letter from Jim [redacted] at the Mediterranean Bureau on the subject of BBC-Mediterranean Bureau liaison. The letter dealt primarily with certain inadequacies in liaison on coverage of Rumania. I do not think that this is a major problem in any way but believe that you may wish to pass this information on to those members of your staff charged with coordinating Rumanian coverage with the Mediterranean Bureau. The letter reads as follows:

"Although coordination and cooperation between BBC Caversham and FBIS Kyrenia are generally of the highest order, the following should be noted as an exception:

"On 21 November the following message was sent to BBC and for information of FBIS Caversham: 'Beginning 24 November we will keep open on Bucharest 854 kilocycles for unscheduled afternoon or evening preselection speeches. If heard we will check with you before processing. Do you concur?' The message was not answered.

"On 25 November BBC and FBIS Caversham were informed that we had picked up recording of excerpts of Apostel speech. FBIS replied that a 900-word summary from Agerpress had been cued. We filed since voice version was more detailed.

"The same day we informed FBIS that we had picked up a 15-minute recording of a Stoica speech of which we would file excerpts unless notified that there was a fuller version available. Since there was no reply, we filed excerpts.

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Mr. Richard D. Marriott

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12 December 1952

"On 26 November we picked up a recorded reportage of a religious conference held in connection with the elections. We processed although the program was also carried on 155 kilocycles, a frequency which BBC covers.

"On 26 November also we sent a Masat speech.

"On 27 November we informed BBC and FBIS we had a recorded speech by Constantinescu. BBC replied: 'Unheard Caversham. Would welcome processing.' BBC later added: 'Processing unnecessary as adequately summarized in yesterday's Agerpress transmissions.' We filed Home Service version, however.

"On 28 November we informed BBC and FBIS that we had intercepted recorded excerpts of speech by Groza and added: 'If you have started processing, please reply urgent press.' BBC answered: 'Groza unsatisfactorily recorded here. Shall be grateful for your processing.' We filed.

"The same day we informed BBC that we had a speech by Moghioros-- broadcast on 155 kilocycles only--and that we would file unless they had the item. Since there was no answer, we filed.

"Again the same day we asked if BBC was covering a Gheorghe-Dej we had just picked up. BBC replied that it was covered there with variable but probably adequate reception. It would not be required from us unless we were subsequently notified. As we were not asked for any material on this speech, we assume that BBC's reception turned out to be adequate.

"Since we have not heard BBC's explanation of this series of broadcasts, we can only draw the obvious alternative conclusions:

- "1. That BBC made no efforts to supply additional coverage of 155 kilocycles during the times the speeches were expected.
- "2. That BBC felt that AGERPRESS accounts of the speeches would be adequate.
- "3. That poor reception precluded BBC's processing of any but the Gheorghe-Dej speech."

Please do not feel compelled to reply to this letter or to comment on it in any way since I am sure that this represents an exception to the overall excellence of BBC-Mediterranean Bureau liaison which is to be expected whenever two stations are operating hundreds of miles apart.

Sincerely,

cc: Med Bur

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2 December 1952

[redacted]  
Chief, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
2430 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear [redacted]

Copied off and forwarded to you herein is a report made by [redacted] concerning BBC-Medbu liaison. You may be interested in it as information to have at hand while talking with Mr. Marriott. At any rate it describes a situation which we have faced and indicates that the BBC's part in combined operations with us has not been worked out entirely satisfactorily as yet.

[redacted] report reads:

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"On 28 November we informed BBC and FBIS that we had intercepted recorded excerpts of speech by Grosa and added: 'If you have started processing, please reply urgent press.' BBC answered: 'Grosa unsatisfactorily recorded here. Shall be grateful for your processing.' We filed.

"The same day we informed BBC that we had a speech by Hoghioro--broadcast on 155 kilocycles only--and that we would file unless they had the item. Since there was no answer, we filed.

"Again the same day we asked if BBC was covering a Gheorghe-Dej we had just picked up. BBC replied that it was covered there with variable but probably adequate reception. It would not be required from us unless we were subsequently notified. As we were not asked for any material on this speech, we assume that BBC's reception turned out to be adequate.

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